

yet taken either of these collections, prepare for it now, and on Christmas day, instead of spending your money for candies, etc., let us turn the day into a rousing missionary day for the home work in the state. Bring the matter before your people, in the young peoples' meeting, the Sunday School, and at regular church services. You can find no better theme for a Christmas sermon than the cause of missions, "Why Jesus came into the world?" Make this your theme and let there be a rally all along the line. Present the claims of the gospel to your people and then give them an opportunity to make an offering for the work. We shall look for good results. Do not disappoint us, please.

The New Creed

Cease preaching generalities and platitudes and commence preaching practicalities. The religion of sentiment may be beautiful to look upon, but it the beauty of the aurora, very intangible and very cold. Has it never occurred to you that there is a creed of six articles in the New Testament and an exceedingly practical one? Here it is: 1. I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat. Article 2. I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink. Article 3. I was a stranger, and ye took me in. Article 4. I was naked, and ye clothed me. Article 5. I was sick, and ye visited me. Article 6. I was in prison, and ye came unto me. There's more religion in this any day than there is in the famous five points of Calvinism, or the more or less pointless points of an other extant ism. This New Testament creed implies faith, of course, for we will not do these things, "as unto the Lord," unless we have a much more vivid, instant, dominating faith in the blessed Lord than any credal inculcation can give us. Then it implies love, of course, for all of these six articles taken together constitutes the alphabet of love out of which it makes its marvelous light and literature. And also hope, for love knows about the reward, tho primarily she may not be seeking it. Therefore we have in this New Testament creed, "faith, hope and charity," translated into practice, and if that doesn't embrace the soul and body, the spirit and substance, of true religion, then we confess our ignorance of the first principles of theology, and profess our entire willingness to sit at the feet of any head stuffed divinity dabbler turned out by the theological seminaries to dispense with the Gospel, as Mrs. Partington said. We commend this creed for two reasons. First, it is an original discovery of our own, and it is natural for a man to propagate his own creed. Second, it is easily learned and easily taught. There is no mystery, no incomprehensible jargon about it, and it is not necessary for the student to invoke the venerable ghosts of Greek and Hebrew for light. The Holy Ghost however is essential, for without the grace and

strength which He affords, you will neither believe nor practice this wonderful creed of the six articles. There may be some doubt as to where other creeds will lead you, but this one, just read what the Lord says about it.

That Wonderful Gift

Nothing equals in superlative interest that little, smiling, cherubic figure in the cradle, whose chubby hand grips your heart, whose laughter makes all the others laugh, a treasure, a dear, a never failing source of joy, God's great gift to you. But think, he is not merely a pet, and his mission is not simply to make life for you for awhile brighter and happier. He is immortal. Listen! He has just entered upon the beginning of an eternity, and you are perhaps to decide for him what that eternity of his is to be. Now the beginnings of life are simpler than we think, and at the commencement of every moral, responsible existence there are a few simple, determining principles upon which results for all the succeeding ages depend. First, your own life is ordered upon right principles, else God help that little one to whom his indulgent parents may become his worst enemies. Have you never found God in your own hearts, have you never known him, are you living under the death shadow of this world, and the doom shadow of the judgment to come? Behold, you are leading that little one along into the same awful darkness. There is no hope at the end for you, no solace for life's manifold sorrows, no joy, no love, no safe home opening its doors, and beckoning you into its portals of light and gladness. Into the same destiny you are leading that cherub boy. To abandon him in a howling wilderness would not be more cruel. Your course toward him is not less disastrous to his welfare and his happiness because the great mistake is hidden by the glamour of your unquestioned love. Oh, if you have never found God before, never set out for eternal life, never provided a home in the everlasting mansions, do it now for the sake of that little one whose pattering footsteps journey with you, his hand resting confidently in yours. Why should you betray him? See, he is going where you are going. Whither goest thou? But then if you have already ordered your own life according to the will of God, be careful to add precept to example, as often as the right opportunity comes. Upon one point in your discipline perhaps the whole future destiny of that child hinges, and that is the habit of parental obedience. There are two ways of forming in your child that indispensable habit. The first is, to be yourself worthy of obedience, —to be so just and equitable in your exactions, so wise, temperate, honorable and upright in all your dealings toward him that his sense of right and wrong is normally devel-

oped, and duty is reinforced by the very elements of strength and manliness which are reflected in your own character. The child who by a kindly but unvarying firmness is trained to walk habitually in the path of parental obedience will, so sure as the small stream flows into the wider river, eventually "run in the way of God's commandments."

On the other hand the innumerable ranks of the ungodly and unsaved are reinforced from undisciplined homes. How shall the child, the central idea of whose training from the cradle up has been irreverence and disobedience, afterward reverence and obey God? And what spectacle will be presented to a startled universe when in the day of doom millions of the despairing will cry out against those, we hardly dare name the relation, who set the little feet, when helpless and unsuspecting, in the way of destruction. God pity those whose parents have made it hard for them to be saved and easy to be damned. God have mercy upon those parents who have nothing in themselves, either in precept or example, to make obedience seem right and reasonable. Everything is wrong in that family where God is a stranger. It begins wrong, goes on wrong, ends wrong, and nothing but one of God's most astounding miracles can save a single one of its members from the common ruin. Oh, thou whose calling is to watch for souls, the home is your field. Do there thy work. Go into the homes of your people, of the unsaved around you, and take God with you, take Jesus, take the Holy Ghost. Cease that sin of commonplace chatter when you enter that holy of holies, the home, for in it are the beginnings of eternal life.

The Evil Effects of Tobacco

Readers of the *Voice* have been following with much interest and profit the answers to inquiries, a department in that paper conducted by Dr. J. H. Kellogg of the Battle Creek, Michigan, Sanitarium. In recent issue Joshua L. Mills makes the following inquiry:

I will be thankful for a short analysis, thro the *Voice*, of the evil effects of tobacco upon the human system.

To this inquiry the eminent Doctor, who is of international reputation, makes the following answer, which we hope may prove helpful to our readers:

Tobacco owes its evil properties to a heavy oil which it contains known as nicotine. It contains also various other poisons which are similarly injurious, but less deadly. Nicotin is one of the most powerful of all known poisons. It is almost as potent for evil as prussic acid. One fourth of a drop of nicotin will kill a frog; one seventh of a drop placed on a cat's tongue has produced instant death. Two or three drops distilled into the ear of a sleeping man at once produce death. A child died from an